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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina (Vietnam/Cambodia)

SUBJECT Mass Information Media

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2. In Saigon there are three French newspapers published daily. "Quotidien" (sic) is the most reliable of the three. There are also several Vietnamese dailies and at least two Chinese newspapers.
3. Hanoi is the only other large city in Vietnam which publishes daily papers of any importance. Secondary towns, such as Savannakhet, publish one-sheet daily papers, but their news is restricted to what has been broadcast from Hanoi and Saigon early that morning.
4. The Chinese dailies in Saigon are restricted largely to local stock market reports, advertisements for patent medicines, and marriage and death announcements.
5. The publishers of the Vietnamese newspapers in Saigon were always anxious to accept material submitted by the US mission. They would print literally anything, although ordinarily not on the day requested.
6. There are no regular newspapers published by the Viet Minh which are available in French controlled territory. However, Viet Minh do publish considerable propaganda material in form of handbills, posters, and throw-aways. As a matter of fact, I received one of these handbills in the mail shortly after I arrived in Saigon in 1951.
7. The Viet Minh did not operate any radio stations, except perhaps very small mobile units with a range of 10 - 15 miles. However, in Saigon we could pick up Radio Hanoi which broadcast programs beamed to Indochina in French, Vietnamese, and Chinese.
8. There are no wire service facilities available in Vietnam and Radio Viet Nam and Radio France Asia are the only sources of foreign news in rural areas.

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